BIRDING NOTES Compiled by Aasheesh Pittie

This column publishes birding notes in brief telegraphic form, from **Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu** on interesting and significant sightings and behaviour like breeding, feeding, migration, nesting, *etc*. Notes on flowering and fruiting trees and their relationship with birds are also welcome. English names and classification follow, S.D. Ripley's *A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (1982, 2nd ed.) and scientific nomenclature, T. Inskipp, N. Lindsey & W. Duckworth's *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region* (1996). Unless specified, all observations are for 2001. Abbreviations, Contributors, Notes, Regional Referees, *etc.*, are at the end. For selection of breeding criteria 'Probable, Possible, Confirmed', see *Pitta* # 82, February 1998, p. 4.

ANDHRA PRADESH

KRISHNA DISTRICT

Gudiwada (CC)

31.i: OPENBILL STORK *c.* 15; PIED CRESTED CUCKOO 1.

Machilipatnam (CC)

23.i—5.ii: BLACK-CAPPED KINGFISHER C in mangroves; TEREK SANDPIPER 1 on coast; WESTERN REEF HERON *c.* 40-50 dark phase birds in mangroves; LITTLE HERON few in mangroves; YELLOW BITTERN 3; OPENBILL STORK *c.* 15 in mangroves; PIED MYNA C near town; JUNGLE BABBLER.

17.ii: SPOTTED SANDPIPER; COMMON SANDPIPER; LITTLE STINT; PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER 8; LITTLE RINGED PLOVER; GREY-HEADED LAPWING 12; RED-WATTLED LAPWING.

6.iii: PURPLE HERON; BLACK BITTERN 2; YELLOW BITTERN 2; BLACK-WINGED STILT; PURPLE MOORHEN; INDIAN MOORHEN; WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN; BRONZE-WINGED JACANA; HOOPOE; BROWN SHRIKE; ASHY WREN-WARBLER; STREAKED WEAVER BIRD CB, Nesting; BAYA non-br plm.

Uppalapadu 22.ii (KHR)

GREY PELICAN 102, CB 40 N.

MEDAK DISTRICT

Toopran (PJ)

7.ii: LONG-BILLED VULTURE 20+. CB, 3 N with ad., incubating.

25.ii: LONG-BILLED VULTURE 10; WHITE-BACKED VULTURE 4; CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE CB, 1 N, F incubating; CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE pair calling in flight; RED SPURFOWL 2; PEAFOWL 1 M.

RANGAREDDI DISTRICT

Anantgiri Reserve Forest 25.ii (AP)

SHIKRA PRB, F displaying with exaggerated, deep flapping flight, ahead of M; HOOPOE CB 1 N in Tamarind *Tamarindus indus*. Ad., feeding yng. BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE 1 M; BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE 1 M; GOLDEN ORIOLE; BLACKBIRD 1; YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW 1.

Chevella (PJ)

12.ii: CINEREOUS VULTURE 1 mobbed by crows. Bird photographed.

Gangavaram Tank 19.i (SAK)

WHITE-EYED POCHARD 75; PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA 7 Non-br., plm; BRONZE-WINGED JACANA 8 ad., 5 yng.

Hyderabad city outskirts (PJ)

14.ii: BONELLI'S EAGLE CB. Ad., feeding yng.

Ramoji Film City (PJ)

16.ii: BONELLI'S EAGLE CB, 1 N on pylon; SCAVENGER VULTURE CB, 1 N on cliff.

KERALA

MALAPPURAM DISTRICT

Irumbuzhi (ZAP)

1.iv.2000: MAGPIE-ROBIN PRB, carrying N-matl.

13.v: JUNGLE MYNA CB, N on Shami tree.

10.x: PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD PRB, pair mating.

13.x: PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD PRB, const., N.

18.x: WHITE-BACKED MUNIA PRB, with N mat.

20.x: GOLDEN ORIOLE 1 M, first for the winter.

24.i.2001: WHITE-BACKED MUNIA CB, ad., feeding 2 yng.

4.ii: RUFOUS BABBLER.

20.ii: JERDON'S CHLOROPSIS CB, ad., near begging yng.

27.ii: PITTA 1.

PALAKKAD DISTRICT

Nelliyampathi Hills 28.iv—2.v (ZAP)

MALABAR PIED HORNBILL; MALABAR GREY HORNBILL CB, 1 ad., with 2 yng; WHITE-BELLIED TREEPIE; BLUE-WINGED PARAKEET.

ABBREVIATIONS: Ab-abundant; ad-adult/s; br-breeding; C-common/ly; CB-confirmed breeding; const-construction/ing; *c.*-approximately; disp-display/ing; F-female; flt-flight; fly-family; freq-frequent/ly; hrd-heard; id-identify/ied; imm-immature; inc-include/ing; Is-Island; juv-juvenile; LM-local migrant; M-male; mat-material; N-nest/ing/s; OH-overhead; POB-possible breeding; PRB-probable breeding; plm-plumage; RF-Reserve Forest; Resp-respectively; Tlk-Taluk; vil-village; WL-wildlife; yng-young.

CONTRIBUTORS: Aasheesh Pittie (AP); Colin Conroy (CC); Pranay Juwadi (PJ); S. Ashok Kumar (SAK); Zaibin, AP (ZAP);

REGIONAL REFEREES: Andhra Pradesh: Aasheesh Pittie; Goa: Heinz Lainer; Haryana: Harkirat S. Sangha; Karnataka: J.N. Prasad; Kerala: P.O. Nameer; Maharashtra: Nitin Jamdar; Punjab: H.S. Sangha; Rajasthan: H.S. Sangha; Tamil Nadu: V. Santharam.

...Continued from page 2.

"Col. Meinhertzagen, though now exposed as a fraudulent manipulator, did some interesting observations in Afghanistan on the colour patterns of larks which matched with the colours of the soil. This obviously helped them to protect themselves against predators by being more obliterative. It would have been absurd to give each of them a sub-specific status.

"I am writing this because I have a feeling that your excellent paper should carry more articles on the living bird in its natural habitat as indeed you have so often done."

—Zafar Futehally, Bangalore

For Private Circulation Only

For information, write to: Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh, PO Box 45, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India.

Editors: Aasheesh Pittie (3350683) & Siraj A Taher (6612608) **E-mail**: aasheesh@hd1.vsnl.net.in

Membership (Rs): Admission=20; Ordinary=100, Student=25 per annum; Life=1,000. *Add Rs.25/- for outstation cheques.*